PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, STATE OF LOUISIANA, REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2022 AT 5:30 P.M.

The City Council of the City of Natchitoches met in legal and regular session at the Natchitoches Council Chambers, 716 Second Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana on Monday, January 24, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

There were present:

Mayor Ronnie Williams Councilwoman At Large Betty Sawyer-Smith Councilman Eddie Harrington Councilman Dale Nielsen Councilman Christopher Petite Councilwoman Rosemary Elie

Guest: None

Absent: None

Mayor Ronnie Williams called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone for coming. Mayor Williams led the invocation and Councilman Nielsen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Williams then called for the reading and approval of the minutes for the January 10, 2022 meeting. Councilwoman At Large Smith moved that we dispense with the reading of the minutes and approval of same. Seconded by Councilman Nielsen.

A roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: Elie, Nielsen, Smith, Harrington, Petite

Nays: None Absent: None Abstain: None Nick Verrett provided a presentation on Local Task Force Traffic Calming Measures.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mrs. Smith and Seconded by Harrington as follows, to-wit:

ORDINANCE NO. <u>001</u> OF 2022

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 64 OF 2001 BY CHANGING ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

Lots 2 & 3 Block M of S & P Addition.

(125 North St./821 West St.).

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, has recommended at their meeting of January 4, 2022 that the application of Daniel Cook to rezone the property described above from R-1 Single-Family residential to R-1 with additional special exception zoning to operate a vacation rental (125 North St./821 West St), be APPROVED.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Smith at the January 10, 2022 City Council meeting as follows:

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on January 10, 2022 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on January 13, 2022.

The above Ordinance having been duly advertised in accordance with law and public hearing had on same, was put to a vote by the Mayor and the vote was recorded as follows:

AYES: Elie, Nielsen, Smith, Harrington, Petite

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Ordinance passed by a vote of <u>5</u> Ayes to <u>0</u> Nays this 24th day of January, 2022.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 25th day of January, 2022 at 10:00 A.M.

Daniel Cook provided information on his plans pertaining to Ordinance No. 001 of 2022.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Elie and Seconded by Mr. Petite as follows, to-wit:

ORDINANCE NO. <u>002</u> OF 2022

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 64 OF 2001 BY CHANGING ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEING THE EXCHANGE BANK BRANCH BUILDING LYING IN THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 23 OF WEST BROADMOOR SUBDIVISION.

(203 Keyser Ave.)

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, has recommended at their meeting of **January 4, 2022** that the application of Shalonda Calvin to rezone the property described above from B-1 Commercial to B-1 with additional B-A zoning, for consumption of high and low alcohol on premise (**Broadmoor Shopping Center - 203 Keyser Ave.**), be **APPROVED**.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on January 10, 2022 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on January 13, 2022.

The above Ordinance having been duly advertised in accordance with law and public hearing had on same, was put to a vote by the Mayor and the vote was recorded as follows:

AYES: Elie, Nielsen, Smith, Harrington, Petite

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Ordinance passed by a vote of $\underline{5}$ Ayes to $\underline{0}$ Nays this 24th day of January, 2022.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 25th day of January, 2022 at 10:00 A.M.

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Petite and Seconded by Mrs. Smith as follows, to-wit:

ORDINANCE NO. <u>003</u> OF 2022

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 64 OF 2001 BY CHANGING ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

LOT SOUTHEAST CORNER OF ISADORE DRIVE AND KEYSER AVE. SHOWN AS LOT "A" ON PLAT I MAP BOOK 1, PAGE 587, LESS 0.098 OF AN ACRE TO HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT.

(601 Keyser Ave.)

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Natchitoches, State of Louisiana, has recommended at their meeting of **January 4**, **2022** that the application of Kirk Soileau with Natchitoches Regional Hospital to rezone the property described above from B-2 Commercial to B-2 Commercial, with special exception zoning for the operation of a 24-hour pharmacy and drive thru and walk in access (**601 Keyser Ave**.), be **APPROVED**.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced on January 10, 2022 and published in the *Natchitoches Times* on January 13, 2022.

The above Ordinance having been duly advertised in accordance with law and public hearing had on same, was put to a vote by the Mayor and the vote was recorded as follows:

AYES: Elie, Nielsen, Smith, Harrington, Petite

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Ordinance passed by a vote of $\underline{5}$ Ayes to $\underline{0}$ Nays this 24th day of January, 2022.

RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR

BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

Delivered to the Mayor on the 25th day of January, 2022 at 10:00 A.M.

Council meeting as			1	
ORDINANCE NO), 006 OF 2022			
AN ORDINANCE	AMENDING TI	HE 2021 - 202	22 BUDGET TO	REFLECT
ADDITIONAL RI				
WHEREAS, L.R.S	S. 39:1310 requires	s that the City	amend its operation	ng budgets when fund
balance is being bu				
expenditures; and				
WHEREAS, in acc	cordance with L.R	.S. 39:1305, t	he following speci	fies the Mayor's authority
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powers reserved so				•
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by ordinance transj	-			· ·
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(Section 5.05 A-C)			v 11	
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Matt Anderson explained the need for a budget amendm	ent in regards to Ordinance No. 006 of
2022.	

The following Ordinance was Introduced by Mr. Petite at the January 24, 2022 City Council meeting as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. <u>007</u> OF 2022

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING CERTAIN BUILDINGS UNSAFE AND RECOMMENDING THAT SAME BE DEMOLISHED OR PUT INTO REPAIR TO COMPLY WITH THE BUILDING CODE, AUTHORIZING NOTICE TO BE SERVED, FIXING HEARING DATE AND APPOINTING CURATOR TO REPRESENT ABSENTEES

WHEREAS, the City Building Inspector and the Director of Planning & Zoning have filed written reports with the City Council declaring that the buildings listed below are in a dangerous and unsanitary condition which makes them unsafe and endangering the public welfare, and recommending that said buildings be demolished or put in repair to comply with the Building Code, to-wit:

Jafar F. Al-Sharab
 116 Watson Dr.
 Natchitoches, LA 71457

Lot 6b Block 4 of Bailey Heights Shown On A Survey By Robert Davis, Pls Dated August 12, 2015 Recorded At Map Slide 734b. (918 Bayou Jacko St.)

2. Anthony S. Catanese P.O. Box 396 Natchitoches, La 71457

Lot 4 BLk Z of Hedge Addition. (1016 Collins St.)

3. Emily N Brooks C/O Julie Kennedy 115 Amanda Dr. Natchitoches, La 71457

Lot 3 Blk R of S & P Addition (225 Gibson St.)

LA Property Acquisition & Management, LLC
 433 S. Vine Ave.
 Tyler, TX 75702

Lot 40 By 100 Ft., N By Josephine Russell, E By Goins Alley, S By Hamilton, W By Goins (232 Julia St.)

5. Millie H. Easley 1401 Grayson St. Natchitoches, La 71457

Lot 13 Block 2 of Bailey Hgts. Annex (1401 Grayson St.)

6. Pearline B. Hoover

928 Highland Park Drive Natchitoches, LA 71457

North 12 Feet of Lot H & South 13 Feet of Lot J of Scarborough Lots, Being 25 Feet Front East Side 7th Street (928 Short Seventh St.)

7. David C. Dixon 314 Duplex Street Natchitoches, La 71457

RE: S ½ of the Following: A lot between St. John Street & Sawyer Street Being Lot 6 & E/2 of Lot 7 Block "k" of Breda Addition. Said Lot Facing Sawyer Street (1428 Sawyer St.)

8. Frank D. & Tanyia G. Manausa 1530 Westcourt Dr. Natchitoches, LA 71457

Lot 1 Blk D of Cane River Subd. & 60 Ft Lot Between Lot 1 Blk D & S Line of Turpin Fence (1530 West Court Dr.)

9. Rufus & Florien M. Moses C/O Sandra Beaudion 1124 Highland Park Dr. Natchitoches, LA 71457

Lots 16, 17 & 18 Blk D & N Lot 7 & S Lot 7 Strip 5 of Natchitoches Hgts. (402 Rowena St.)

10. Mildred Leach, et al C/O Linell Leach 309 Luella Avenue Calumet City, IL 60409

Lot 43 Ft Front S Side Lafayette St. By 79 Ft, E By Metoyer Et Als, S By Johnson, W By Sunday (517 Lafayette St.)

Shontrell Roque explained photos presented in relation of Ordinance No 007 of 2022.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Nielsen and Seconded by Mr. Petite as follows, to –wit:

RESOLUTION NO. <u>005</u> OF 2022

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE CHANGE ORDER NO. 6 TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES AND REGIONAL CONSTRUCTION, LLC FOR PHASE 3 STREET REHABILITATION

(BID NO. 0629)

- WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches (CITY) awarded the bid to Regional Construction, LLC (CONTRACTOR) on October 12, 2020 by Ordinance No. <u>052</u> of **2020** in the amount of **\$499,719.25** for Phase 3 Street Rehabilitation (Bid No. 0629); and
- WHEREAS, on October 12, 2020, the City Council approved Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$61,141,95 making the revised contact total \$560,861.20; and
- WHEREAS, on October 12, 2020, the City Council approved Change Order No. 1 increasing the contract time from Seventy-five (75) calendar days to Eighty-four (84 calendar days; and
- WHEREAS, on January 11, 2021, the City Council approved Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$14,790.20 making the revised contact total \$575,651.40; and
- WHEREAS, on January 11, 2021, the City Council approved Change Order No. 2 increasing the contract time from Eighty-four (84) calendar days to Ninety (90) calendar days; and
- WHEREAS, on March 22, 2021, the City Council approved Change Order No. 3 in the amount of <u>\$126,975.15</u> making the revised contact total <u>\$702,626.55</u>; and
- WHEREAS, on March 22, 2021, the City Council approved Change Order No. 3 increasing the contract time from Eighty-four (84) calendar days to Ninety (90) calendar days; and
- WHEREAS, on April 12, 2021, the City Council approved Change Order No. 4 in the amount of \$1,910.00 making the revised contract total \$704,536.55; and
- WHEREAS, on April 12, 2021 the City Council approved Change Order No. 4 increasing the contract time to a total of One Hundred Eleven (111) calendar days; and
- WHEREAS, on April 26, 2022, the City Council approved Change Order No. 5 **DECREASING** the amount by \$584.15 making the revised contract total \$703,952,40; and
- WHEREAS, on January 5, 2022, the project ENGINEER issued Change Order No. 6, fully described in Attachment "A"; and
- WHEREAS, the contract sum will be increased by Change Order No. 6 in the amount of **\$4,537.50** and the revised contract total will be **\$708,489.90**; and
 - WHEREAS, the project Engineer, Nick Verret, has recommended this change order; and
- WHEREAS, the CITY is of the opinion that **Change Order No. 6** is in the best interest of the CITY.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Natchitoches, in legal session convened, that the Honorable Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, be and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to execute the referenced **Change Order No. 6** to the agreement between the City of Natchitoches and the contractor, Regional Construction, LLC.

This Resolution was then presented for a vote, and the vote was recorded as follows:

AYES: Elie, Nielsen, Harrington, Petite

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: Smith

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of $\underline{4}$ Ayes to $\underline{0}$ Nays on this 24th day of January, 2022.

Nick Verrett presented a presentation and explanation of Resolution No. 005 of 2022.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Smith and Seconded by Mr. Nielsen as follows, to –wit:

RESOLUTION NO. <u>006</u> OF 2022

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR FY 2021-2022 PHASE I STREET REHABILITATION

BID NO. 0641

WHEREAS, the City wishes to advertise for bids for FY 2021-2022 Phase I Street Rehabilitation, Bid No. 0641; and

WHEREAS, sealed proposals shall be addressed to the City of Natchitoches, Office of the Director of Purchasing, City of Natchitoches Purchasing Department, 1400 Sabine Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana, 71457; and

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches will accept sealed and electronic bids for the project until 2:00 pm on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at the Office of the Director of Purchasing, 1400 Sabine Street; and

WHEREAS, bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 2:00 pm, on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 held at the above mentioned Office of the Director of Purchasing; and

WHEREAS, upon receipt of proposals the committee of Sonya McClellan, Controller; Edd Lee, Director of Purchasing; Betty Smith, Councilwoman at Large; and Donald Forest, Public Works Director, are to review and make a recommendation of the bids received.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Natchitoches, in legal session convened, that the Honorable Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, be and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to order the publication of the above bid.

This Resolution was then presented for a vote, and the vote was recorded as follows:

AYES: Elie, Nielsen, Smith, Harrington, Petite

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of <u>5</u> Ayes to 0 Nays on this 24th day of January, 2022.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Elie and Seconded by Mrs. Smith as follows, to –wit:

RESOLUTION NO. <u>007</u> OF 2022

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE AND ACCEPT BIDS FOR CHRISTMAS LIGHTING SUPPLIES

(BID NO. 0644)

WHEREAS, the City wishes to advertise for Public Bids for Christmas Lighting Supplies (Bid No. 0644).

WHEREAS, sealed proposals shall be addressed to the City of Natchitoches, Office of the Director of Purchasing, P. O. Box 37, Natchitoches, Louisiana 71458 or received at the City of Natchitoches Purchasing Department, 1400 Sabine Street, Natchitoches, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches will accept sealed and electronic bids for the project until 2:00 pm on Monday, February 28, 2022 at the Office of the Director of Purchasing, 1400 Sabine Street; and

WHEREAS, bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 2:00 pm, on Monday, February 28, 2022 held at the above mentioned Office of the Director of Purchasing; and

WHEREAS, upon receipt of proposals, the committee members consisting of Sonya McClellan, Controller, Finance Director; Edd Lee, Director of Purchasing; Matt Anderson, Utility Director; and Dale Nielsen, Councilman, are to review and make a recommendation of the bids received.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Natchitoches, in legal session convened, that the Honorable Ronnie Williams, Jr., Mayor, be and is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to order the publication of the above bid.

This Resolution was then presented for a vote, and the vote was recorded as follows:

AYES: Elie, Nielsen, Smith, Harrington, Petite

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of $\underline{5}$ Ayes to $\underline{0}$ Nays on this 24th day of January, 2022.

Matt Anderson stated this Resolut upcoming Christmas season.	ion is a routine orde	r done every year in	preparation of the

MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA AND RESOLUTION NO. 008 OF 2022

Mrs. Smith made a motion to amend the agenda and resolution no. 008 of 2022 and seconded by Mrs. Elie, the motion was presented for a vote and the vote was recorded as follows:

AYES: Elie, Smith, Harrington, Petite

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: Nielsen The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Petite and Seconded by Mrs. Smith as follows, to –wit:

RESOLUTION NO. <u>008</u> OF 2022

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SHONTRELL ROQUE TO SIGN CHECKS IN THE ABSENCE OF A FINANCE DIRECTOR SAID RESOLUTION AND AUTHORIZATION MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 2-3 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA.

WHEREAS, Section 2-3 of the Code of Ordinance of the City of Natchitoches provides that all checks must be signed by the Mayor and Finance Director of the City of Natchitoches; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, Section 2-3 further provides for a procedure for execution of checks in the absence of the Mayor or the Finance Director; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City of Natchitoches is currently without an acting Finance Director, and in order to be able to continue to issue checks, and in accordance with Section 2-3 of the Code of Ordinances, the City Council of the City of Natchitoches desires to authorize a person to execute checks until the appointment and confirmation of a new Finance Director; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, Shontrell Roque, Director of Planning and Zoning has agreed to execute checks on behalf of the City, and the City Council desires to authorize Dale Nielsen to execute checks on behalf of the City of Natchitoches, said authorization to continue until such time as a new Finance Director is appointed by the Mayor, confirmed by the City Council and has been added to the signature card for all city accounts; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana, that Shontrell Roque is hereby authorized to execute checks on behalf of the City of Natchitoches, said authorization to continue until such time as a new Finance Director is appointed by the Mayor, confirmed by the City Council and has been added to the signature card for all city accounts, all in accordance with Section 2-3 of the Code of Ordinance of the City of Natchitoches, Louisiana.

This Resolution was then presented for a vote, and the vote was recorded as follows:

AYES: Elie, Smith, Harrington, Petite

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: Nielsen

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of <u>4</u> Ayes to <u>0</u> Nays on this 24th day of January, 2022.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mr. Harrington and Seconded by Mrs. Elie as follows, to –wit:

RESOLUTION NO. <u>009</u> OF 2022

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ASSIGNMENT AND ASSUMPTION AGREEMENT OF THAT LEASE OF LOT 1 OF THE NATCHITOCHES REGIONAL AIRPORT FROM FOSHEE DUSTING CO. INC., TO NOR-WES, INC., INCLUDING THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THAT INSTRUMENT CAPTIONED ASSIGNMENT AND ASSUMPTION AGREEMENT AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE LEASE IN FAVOR OF FOSHEE DUSTING CO. TO CORRECT AN ERROR IN DATES.

WHEREAS, the City of Natchitoches has previously entered into a lease with Foshee Dusting Co., for Lot 1 of the Natchitoches Regional Airport, which said lease was approved by Ordinance Number 51 of 2014, passed January 12, 2015, and which lease was executed by the Mayor on the 13th day of January, 2015 and by Foshee Dusting, Co. on the 16th day of January, 2015 (sometimes hereinafter "Lease"); and

WHEREAS FURTHER, Foshee Dusting, Co. desires to transfer the hanger located on Lot 1 to Nor-Wes, Inc., and further desires to assign the Lease to Nor-Wes, Inc., and Nor-Wes, Inc. desires to assume the Lease, and both have requested approval of the City of Natchitoches to the transfer of hanger and assignment and assumption of the Lease; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, Nor-Wes, Inc. has a current presence at the Natchitoches Regional Airport and is currently in good standing and has met its obligations under existing agreements with the City of Natchitoches; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, Foshee Dusting Co. and Nor-Wes, Inc. have presented the City of Natchitoches with a proposed bill of sale for the transfer of the hanger and an instrument captioned "Assignment and Assumption of Lease Agreement", a copy of which is attached, and requested that the City approve and execute same; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the original Lease Agreement provides for a ten year lease which began on January 1, 2015; however, the lease has an obvious error in paragraph 3 which states that the lease term ends December 31, 2019, when the lease term actually continues through December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS FURTHER, the City Council desires to amend the original lease to correct the dates in paragraph three of the Lease Agreement in order to provide for the ten year term as contemplated; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Natchitoches in legal session convened that it does hereby consent to the transfer of the hanger located on Lot 1 of the Natchitoches Regional Airport and further consent to the assignment of the above and foregoing Lease in favor of Foshee Dusting Co., Corporation, to Nnor-Wes, Inc.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Ronnie Williams, Mayor of the City of Natchitoches, be and he is hereby authorized to execute the said "Assignment and Assumption Agreement", a copy of which is attached, on behalf of the City, indicating the approval of the assignment and assumption of the Lease.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Natchitoches in legal session convened that it does hereby consent to an Amendment to that Lease Agreement dated January 16, 2014 in order to correct a typographical error and to state the correct termination date as December 31, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Ronnie Williams, Mayor of the City of Natchitoches, be and he is hereby authorized to execute an Amendment to Lease Agreement to correct Paragraph 3 of said lease to provide for a termination date of December 31, 2024.

This Resolution was then presented for a vote, and the vote was recorded as follows:

AYES: Elie, Nielsen, Harrington, Petite

NAYS: None ABSENT: Smith ABSTAIN: None

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of <u>4</u> Ayes to <u>0</u> Nays on this 24th day of January, 2022.

Edd Lee explained Resolution No. 09 of 2022.

Mark Milligan opposed Ordinances 3,4,5 that were introduced at City Council Meeting January 10, 2022. Edd Lee spoke in response to Mark Milligan.

The following Resolution was Introduced by Mr. Mr. Nielsen, Seconded by Mrs. Smith, to-wit:

RESOLUTION NO. 010 OF 2022

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE RIVER SOUTH COMMONS SHOPPING CENTER ON SOUTH DRIVE IN THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES

WHEREAS, the Owners of River South Commons Shopping Center located on South Drive has made several requests of the City which include a creation of an Economic Development District around the shopping center located on South Drive: and

WHEREAS, River South Commons Shopping Center was originally developed in 1977 for the original Wal-Mart Store and remained as a vibrant shopping center until 2012-2015 when several large national tenants closed their Natchitoches locations; and

WHEREAS, there has been almost 80,000 square feet of leased space vacant since that time; and

WHEREAS, the owners of River South Commons Shopping Center have an opportunity to lease that vacant space to several large national tenants that will cause the shopping center to be at full occupancy; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor request for the City to create an incentive package to aid with the development of this vacant space as well as allow the developers to completely renovate the entire shopping center including the parking lot, lighting, and signage; and

WHEREAS, the Administration is supportive of economic development throughout the community and is strongly considering future legislation that an Economic Development District be created that will enable placing an additional sales tax for all sales within the shopping center that will create the incentives for the owners of the shopping center with no cost to the City; and

WHEREAS, the new tenants have provided tentative information that the redevelopment of the River South Commons Shopping Center will create significant employment of approximately 70 new jobs, projected sales tax revenue of approximately \$1,000,000 annually and significant utility revenue to the City of Natchitoches,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Natchitoches City Council, in legal session convened, does hereby authorizes the Mayor to support the initial creation of an Economic Development District around the River South Commons Shopping Center to enable the redevelopment of the shopping center and create an economic benefit to the City of Natchitoches and that Honorable Ronnie Williams Jr., Mayor, be and is hereby authorized and empowered to support this valuable project in a form of letters and communication including but not limited too potential tenants and financial institution with all final legislation to create the Economic Development District being subject to Council approval.

This Resolution was then presented for a vote, and the vote was recorded as follows:

AYES: Elie, Nielsen, Smith, Harrington, Petite

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 24th day of January, 2022.

Jeff Thomas spoke on behalf River South Shopping Center in regards to Resolution No. 110 of 2022.

Mike Busada provided information regarding Resolution No. 110 of 2022.

The following Resolution was introduced by Mrs. Smith and Seconded by Mrs. Elie as follows, to –wit:

RESOLUTION NO. <u>011</u> OF 2022

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH TRAVELERS CASUALTY AND SURETY COMPANY OF AMERICA FOR THE PUBLIC OFFICIAL SCHEDULE BOND FOR THE CITY OF NATCHITOCHES

WHEREAS, the proposals submitted for the Public Officials Bond for the City of Natchitoches have been reviewed and it is recommended the City award the contract to Travelers Casualty and Surety Company of America for the period February 1, 2022 through February 1, 2023 for the bond premium of \$5,250.00.

This Resolution was then presented for a vote, and the vote was recorded as follows:

AYES: Elie, Nielsen, Smith, Harrington, Petite

NAYS: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

THEREUPON, Mayor Ronnie Williams, Jr., declared the Resolution passed by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays on this 24th day of January, 2022.

Edd Lee explained Resolution No. 011 of 2022.

Announcement:

- The next scheduled City Council meeting will be **Monday**, **February 14**, **2022**.
- Mayor Williams and the City Council of the city of Natchitoches, will hold the **Annual State of the City Address on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.** The State of the city Address will be livestreamed and can be accessed by visiting the City's Website link at
- Community Conversation on Crime, Thursday January 24,2022 at Martin Luther King Recreational Center

With no further discussion, Mayor Williams The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.	made a motion for adjournment and all were in favor.
RONNIE WILLIAMS, JR., MAYOR	BETTY SMITH, MAYOR PRO-TEMPORE